

My government is moving to a single procurement service for the nearly \$2 billion worth of goods and services procured every year.

This is estimated to result in significant savings thanks to increased coordination, while ensuring the best value for taxpayers and fair treatment for Saskatchewan suppliers.

My government recently signed a bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada to provide nearly \$900 million for infrastructure projects over the next decade.

This agreement will result in long-term infrastructure investments that will create jobs and enhance the quality of life for people around the province.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

Improving safety for Saskatchewan people is a priority of my government.

The Protection and Response Team (PRT) was created one year ago to reduce crime, particularly in rural areas, by bringing together highway patrol officers, conservation officers, RCMP and municipal police officers.

The PRT has improved response times and enhanced officer visibility in rural Saskatchewan.

Since the operational launch of the PRT in April, conservation officers and highway patrol officers have assisted with more than 1,300 PRT-related actions – including responding to 83 emergency 911 calls.

These calls include assisting with a high-risk takedown which resulted in multiple arrests, locating a theft suspect, finding a missing 82-year-old woman who had left a farm on an extremely warm summer day, and responding to the Humboldt Broncos bus crash.

PRT vehicles are also equipped with Automated Licence Plate Readers, funded by SGI.

As these devices scan licence plates, they alert officers if a vehicle is stolen, is connected to a crime, or if the vehicle is connected to a driver who has been suspended for impaired driving or other reasons.

To help with safety on our roads, my government has introduced a number of measures to reduce impaired driving rates in Saskatchewan.

This province has some of the toughest impaired driving laws in the country.

These laws were strengthened in 2014 and again in 2017. And most recently, stronger new laws came into effect last month.

These most recent changes specifically target drug-impaired drivers and those caught driving impaired while transporting children.

This fall, my government will be proclaiming *The Vehicles for*

Hire Act that will allow ride-sharing services to begin operations in communities across Saskatchewan, which will provide another option for a safe ride home.

My government is seeing results, while recognizing there is still more to do.

Preliminary data shows a 40 per cent decrease in alcohol-related fatalities between 2016 and 2017.

This fall, the Minister responsible for SGI was awarded the MADD Canada Citizen of Distinction Award for government efforts to reduce impaired driving injuries and fatalities.

During this session, my government will introduce changes to commercial driver training to improve safety on Saskatchewan roads.

Saskatchewan has been working closely with other western provinces to improve commercial driver training and ensure consistent standards between provinces.

The Ministry of Highways is implementing an intersection safety strategy to reduce the potential for collisions at highway intersections.

Highways has already conducted a preliminary review of more than 900 intersections and has dedicated \$700,000 this year to clearing sight lines and improving intersection safety.

The budget for the Safety Improvement Program, which funds projects like turning lanes, lighting, guardrails and rumble strips, has increased from \$1.1 million in 2007 to \$7 million in 2018.

My government is committed to further increasing funding for these important safety initiatives in next year's budget.

Cannabis is now legal across the country and my government has implemented a framework and retail model to prioritize public health and safety, while balancing the need to provide legal access.

A competitive private model for the distribution and retail sale of cannabis in Saskatchewan has been chosen to ensure a safe, regulated supply of cannabis and minimize the upfront cost to taxpayers.

My government has also chosen the legal age of consumption to be 19 and has taken a zero tolerance approach for drug-impaired driving.

My government recognizes the benefits regional policing services provide for our communities.

During this session, my government will amend *The Police Act* to enable rural municipalities and municipalities with populations under 500 to join regional police services.

My government is also taking steps to make crime less profitable by introducing changes to *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act*.

These changes will make it easier for property to be seized if it has been acquired due to or used in unlawful activities such as